PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

The RADIOGRAM

Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention© Club of the Year

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Get On The Air!

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The RADIOGRAM

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From The PCARS President

Greg, KA8TOA
PCARS President

Hi Everyone

We had a great picnic with good food and I would like to thank everyone for making it a success. Our newsletter editor was presented with an award for winning First Place in the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest. Great job J.C.

The open house for visitors netted us 3 visitors and 2 candidates for the upcoming classes. As usual Chuck had complete control of the QSO party along with Ken. A lot of members took advantage of operating and it looks like we had over 90,000 points. We did have to shut down a few times because of the storms.

I hope everyone has a good Labor Day and remember the Board meeting will be on September 8th at 6 pm and the POTA SIG will be the same day at 7 pm.

The regular meeting will be Monday September 14th at 7:00 pm at the American Legion. Please keep an eye on the Web site and calendar. We have a lot of things going on, time is flying by.
For now, 73's!

Greg KA8TOA

From The PCARS Vice President

Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Vice President

I want to encourage all PCARS members to get out there and visit some Hamfests – we've got a few more to hit before the year is over! Just in Ohio we've got the following:

September 5th, 2026 Athens Trunkfest
Location Athens Masonic Lodge
Learn More

September 13th, 2026 Findlay Hamfest
Location Findlay, OH
Learn More

September, 27/2026 Cleveland Hamfest
Location Berea, OH
Learn More

October 10, 2026 Williams County ARA Hamfest
Location Montpelier, OH
Learn More

October 11, 2026 Ashland Trunkfest
Ashland, OH Ashland County Fairgrounds
Learn More

November 1st, 2026 Massillon ARC Hamfest at MAPS
Location MAPS – N Canton, OH
Website http://w8np.net/

Nov 7, 2026 Georgetown/Grant ARC Hamfest
Location Georgetown, OH
Learn More

A couple of these are pretty local to us, others are a bit of a drive, but if you car-pool and everyone tosses in a couple bucks for gas, it works out alright. You might just find something you want that hasn't shown up yet at a local fest! A couple weeks ago I was at the Cincinnati Fest, which was also the Great Lakes Division Convention. I got to see a lot of friends I've made over the years, had a good time, and I came home with the RADIOGRAM First Place award for the OH Section!

Here's another good idea – There are a lot of other clubs surrounding us that are also pretty good clubs. Give them a visit! Visit their meeting, and any of their activities they have going on. I promise, you'll meet some pretty cool people and open yourself up to a lot more Amateur Radio local activities than you might have realized are going on out there. We are not alone!

What's going on with PCARS? As always, lots! The big one coming up real soon is OSPOTA! Everyone who has been doing POTA activations has been learning what it takes to operate from the field – I'm expecting some better scores from everyone this year. But remember, no matter what your operating score is, the potential to increase your FUN score is always there.

Monday September 14 th – Hal Turley – W8HC. Hal will present on the 2025 9U1RU DXpedition to Burundi. That was the SWODXA DXpedition of the year!

Monday October 12th – Deron Boring - N8XTH will give us another look at "Estate Planning" for Amateur Radio Operators.

Monday November 9th – This is our annual Election of Officers and 50/50 for the benefit of the Center of Hope. Think about how you could be a part of the leadership of PCARS in 2027.

December 2026 – there will be no formal club meeting.

January 9th 2027 – Holiday party and January Business Meeting. it's a Saturday! Starting at 2:00PM with a catered dinner beginning at 3:00PM.

February 8th – Rick – K8CAV will be talking about EmComm – especially here in Portage County.

I've already got some tentative speakers lined up for early 2027 – BUT – I'd sure like to know what you'd like to see and hear about, and if you have some specific suggestions I'm always open to them!

No matter what you do this summer, take some photo's and write an article for the Radiogram – we'd all like to know about the Ham Radio Fun you're having this summer!

73,

Tom WB8LCD

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

AC8NT	Jim
KD8PBL	Rick
KE8SMS	Kim
W8AHC	Ronald
W8IFM	Bill

KD8FME	Jim
KD8WBC	Don
N8KBX	Bob
W8DMP	Donna
WB2RPW	Gary

DK8JRE	Michael
NE9JUJ	Nicholas
NT8K	Bob
W8HFZ	Tim

From Around The World…

With Marconi at the Cape: A POTA Activation at Cape Cod
Tom, N2XTO, activated the Marconi Wildlife Management Area in Wellfleet, Massachusetts — the site of Marconi's 1903 transatlantic transmission — logging 11 CW contacts on 40 meters in about 90 minutes with a QCX-mini and a JPC-12 vertical.

Radio, Learning, and Community at the 2026 ARRL National Convention and Huntsville Hamfest
ARRL's recap of the National Convention held alongside Huntsville Hamfest, August 21–23, drawing hams from 37 states. Covers the Mini Contest University, Emergency Communications Academy, and portable-antenna workshop, plus a fundraiser dinner for the ARRL Teachers Institute.

SpotHole
Spothole is an aggregator of Amateur Radio spots from DX clusters and outdoor activity programs. It's free for anyone to use and includes an API that developers can build other applications on.

The ARRL Solar Update
Solar activity picked up to moderate levels, with an M2.2 flare from Region 4513 peaking August 26 and a 140 SFU radio burst. Most active sunspot groups have rotated to the western half of the disk, and while shortwave conditions — including polar propagation — were running above average through late August, forecasters expect things to get choppier as geomagnetic activity rises into early September.

~~On~~ Off The Road with WG8X

John, WG8X

Hi everyone! Well, it's over—my forced vacation, that is. I'm planning to return to work the first of September.

Over the last month, I haven't been too concerned about being stuck at home, since I've managed to stay busy at my desk. During those times when I didn't feel like working in my home office, I've been watching the new episodes of *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*. If you follow the series as well, you'll understand the change in my picture this month.

W1AW/8 returned to Ohio in August. I enjoyed participating in this one, as it gave me something to do on those nights when I was having trouble sleeping in a leg brace. The unsung hero in all of this is Anthony, K8ZT, who organized both of the Ohio activations this time around.

My best DX was W1AW/1 in Massachusetts. I thought it was cool that W1AW/8 worked W1AW/1. Maybe I'm just easily amused, though.

Over the past month, I also fixed some errors on portcars.org and ospota.org. Speaking of the latter, as of tonight, we are approaching 40 parks planned to be on the air during this year's OSPOTA on September 12th.

I'm not ready for solo camping yet, so I'm going to do a rove for this years OSPOTA. I was originally going to wander around Northeast Ohio, but with the Findlay Hamfest being the following day, I may just head west. I'll figure it out as I go.

Oh yes, I took lots of naps over the past month, since I was supposed to be taking it easy. I also got to sit under the shade tree and watch the world go by. I've always said that I don't relax well, but I'm getting used to it.

It's been an awesome summer, though. I originally had visions of sitting at the radio and hunting POTA stations all summer. But you know what? It's not for me. I have been, and always will be, an activator. I guess that's just my nature.

This will be my last **"Off The Road"** column. The day after I submit this article to J.C., I'm planning to do a mini POTA rove.

Where am I going? I don't know!

But I'm looking forward to gathering information and pictures for my next article. **"On The Road"** will be back next month!

I hope to see you all either on the air for OSPOTA or at the September club meeting.

73 DE WG8X

Hello OSPOTA Fans,

Ohio State Parks On The Air

The 19th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest will be held on Saturday - September 12, 2026

This contest as always held on the first Saturday following the Labor Day holiday.
The contest hours are 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC (10 am to 6 pm ET).

The OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind:

1. To promote public awareness of amateur radio and Ohio's beautiful state parks system
2. To contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology
3. To promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators

Your participation allows these goals to be achieved.

We agree it is a lot of fun to get out in a natural setting with your radio and see how well you can do at working other operators in the 76 beautiful Ohio State Parks. Participation is open to all amateur radio operators. You can participate from an Ohio State Park, or from your home, or any other location in or out of Ohio. Join us in the fun of amateur radio.

REMINDER: This is **NOT** a Parks on the Air® POTA activity (started around 2017).
This is the Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest (started in 2008).

Please read the OSPOTA Rules and other information on the OSPOTA website: www.ospota.org
Activity is on the 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands using CW or SSB.
No digital modes such as RTTY, PSK, or FT4/8.

Be aware only Electronic (Cabrillo files) will be accepted for entries. No text, pdf, csv, adif, bin, photos of logs, paper, etc. Comparing contest logs is somewhat automated and we need your log file in standard Cabrillo format.

As in the past - you can let us know which State Park you plan on activating and we'll keep everyone informed.
Fill out the new form for your planned park info at:
https://ospota.org/planned-activation-form/

If you have questions or comments, please email to: INFO@OSPOTA.org
OSPOTA Website: https://ospota.org/
OSPOTA IO Group: https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA
OSPOTA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/OSPOTA

73 from the OSPOTA Contest Committee
Portage County Amateur Radio Club (PCARS)
KB8UUZ, WG8X, W8PT, W8KNO and KB8UHN

15 August 2026

Using AI For Contest Data Analysis

John, WG8X

A few months ago, while at Hamvention©, I attended Contest University. In case you've never been, this is a full day event with multiple short sessions on subjects of interest to Contesters. Noticing that there was a session by A.J., NK4O on combining contesting with POTA, I signed up.

The first session I attended was "Hardware Tips & Sage Advice for Average Contest Stations" by Hal, N4GG. He imparted a lot of great advice; some I'd heard before, and some I hadn't. One piece of advice that really intrigued me was that he uses AI to examine his contest logs, and make recommendations for improving his contest operating style.

I've never been accused of being a serious contester, but I grab ideas from wherever I can find them. Hal didn't have a good idea; he had a GREAT idea. I find myself using AI more and more these days; not in my main job, but in my side gig of webpage design & maintenance. Hal's idea resonated with me, and I decided to try it.

While preparing for the NAQP a few weeks ago, I gave AI a try. I didn't have any previous scores (recently) from the NAQP to load into ChatGPT. But I provided a link to the rules and asked for guidance as to how to maximize my score for this contest. The response, personalized to my own situation, was nothing short of amazing. It broke down the 12-hour contest into smaller bite-size nuggets showing me when to spend time on a band or move.

The after-contest analysis was equally impressive. I fed my actual results into ChatGPT and asked "how did I do"? The response was a list of areas where I can improve, and where I was exceptionally strong. I filed this analysis for next year, to see if it helps me improve my performance.

A few days later, I did the same with the Ohio QSO Party. The difference? I actually have historical data for this contest. So, I fed my files from last year's contest, along with my files from last week's NAQP into ChatGPT.

(*I should note here that I was operating from a campground in Columbiana County last year, as opposed to from Home this time.*)

ChatGPT asked intelligent questions about my station capabilities, etc., and provided some great recommendations for this year's contest. I printed out the seven-page operating card that was generated referred to it at various times throughout the contest.

Did I improve my score? No, my score actually dropped, but that was my own fault due to recovery from some recent surgery. Did AI help to improve my score over where it would have been? Yes, I believe it did! The disclaimer advises that it is possible for AI to make mistakes, but I've found the info generated to be extremely helpful, well presented, and very accurate.

Do I recommend using AI to others for contest prep? Only if you are looking to improve your score. Give it a try; you have nothing to lose.

73 DE WG8X

PCARS is on YouTube

That's right - PCARS is on YouTube. So what does that mean? Hey, we have a place to put all kinds of videos that are about PCARS for the world to see.

https://youtube.com/@portagecountyamateurradios1933?si=09-NxUpDOoqdqTzc

PCARS IO Group

Members are reminded that PCARS has a IO Group site dedicated to PCARS. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list for important PCARS information.

Check out the PCARS IO Group at:
https://groups.io/g/PCARS

PCARS Patches & Stickers

PCARS logo patches (**iron on**) & stickers (stick on) are now available!

Put the patch on your had, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo! The patch is about 3". The embroidery on the white patch is Red, Black, and Blue. Cost for a patch is $2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are $1 each. Reach out to the club treasurer for details.

PCARS T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Jackets, Hats, etc. can be obtained from:
Villager Business Solutions - attn. Michelle Zivoder - michelle@villagerbusiness.com - 330-472-7304.

Radiogram Receives First Place in Ohio Section Newsletter Contest

The RADIOGRAM

This year, The Radiogram received First Place in the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest. This award is a great honor and it recognizes the contributions of all of the club members who submit articles and updates each month.

It's wonderful to have my name on the certificate, but this is for PCARS.

Great job everyone!

73,
J.C. KC8JC - Radiogram Editor

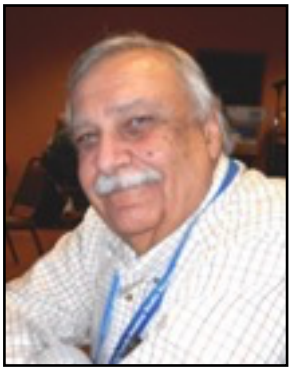
POTA Special Interest Group

Kenneth, KD8OBA
POTA SIG Coordinator

The PCARS POTA/Portable Ops Special Interest Group is excited to announce that the club will participate in OSPOTA as a hunter group at the clubhouse on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Operating under the club call, **K8BF**, all members are invited to join in the fun as we work stations, make contacts, and support this popular portable-operations event. Activities will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and we may fire up the grill with burgers or hot dogs for everyone to enjoy.

The group has also selected Punderson State Park as our activation site for Support Your Parks Weekend on Saturday, October 17, 2026. We will operate from the Marina Pavilion using **K8BF** and plan to grill burgers and hot dogs. Anyone who would like to bring a covered dish is more than welcome to do so. PCARS members, families, and friends are invited to come out, visit, enjoy the day, and help activate the park. We hope to see you there!

DX/Contesting Special Interest Group



Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG Coordinator

PCARS Contesters and DXers:

Just a short report from our DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting that we held on Tuesday, Aug 25. We had 10 attendees either in person or by ZOOM.

We discussed our recent participation in the Ohio QSO Party. Due to the fact that we had to shut down 4 times due to lightning and that we ended early due to the same cause, we did not do anywhere near as well as we have done in the past few years. We ended up with just over 90K points. Last year I believe we had over 250K pts. We all promised that we will do better in 2027.

We discussed our first ever team effort in the NA QSO Party SSB mode. We had two teams of 4 ops each. Our score was fairly low but it was our first time and we will be looking at if they will allow team competition in the CQ WW DX Contest SSB Mode at the end of October.

We then discussed ways in which we can increase the number of contesters in the ranks of PCARS members. Several good ideas were put forth and we will see how we can implement them in the near future.

For now, 73 and GUD DX and GL in any contests that you play in.

73 - Chuck W8PT

PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - LIMITED EDITION! - Get One Now!

PCARS has obtained a limited number of special, custom-made coffee cups that are available only to members.

Supply is limited. If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for **FREE!!** The only catch is that you have to claim it from the **Treasurer**. There is a list of current members and the treasurer will check off your name when you get your **FREE** PCARS coffee cup.

There are a *very* **limited number of extra coffee cups** for sale at $5.00 each. **Contact the Treasurer for details: treasurer@portcars.org**

Could Be Anything SIG

Rick, KD8WCK
5th Tuesday SIG Coordinator

The Could-Be-Anything 5th Tuesday SIG will meet on Tuesday Sep 29 2026, at 7 p.m. at the club site. Please join us as we continue our foray into the mysteries of CW for beginners.

Gene W8NET will explain to us the effective ways to use your computer to help with sending and receiving Morse Code on the air. Gene has become a bit of an expert on this due to his own circumstances, and it promises to be an informative evening.

I encourage anyone interested in CW to attend regardless of expertise. I am a beginner myself and just recently worked some CW on 15m for the OH QSO Party. You don't have to be an expert to get started having some fun on the air with CW.

So come on down at 7:00 Tuesday the 29th!

Zoom attendees should use the meeting details below:
PCARS K8BF is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/96686108444?pwd=hN5hDgTGWwdLBLXkLSeAfVOfSa4nGq.1

Meeting ID: 966 8610 8444
Passcode: 915088
Please join us if you're able, and 73 de Rick KD8WCK

PCARS Member Sick Call

These PCARS members are known to club leadership as recovering from a medical issue. Take a moment and drop a Get Well QSL Card to them to help lift their spirits.

Janice KE8BFA

Carl N4IT

Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites for September 2026

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"

Greetings to all DXers:

September is here and where has the year gone. You know, the older I get the faster time moves. In a couple of years, I might be able to travel faster than light! Who knows? But that still won't get my rotor on Tower 2 repaired. So being that this is September, I need to get my backend in gear and do the work. And I don't think I'm the only one that has some HAM radio project to get done outside. The mild WX is moving fast and soon you won't dare to be out of doors without thermal underwear and puffy parkas. So as the saying goes, seize the day my friends. Make sure that you have the ability to get on the air with no problems while the snow flies outside your windows. Let's take a look at what we can expect this month and a few months in the near future.

As always, big Thank You to: The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites; DL5ON; The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, 425 DX News.

This report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know, so… - **"Work First, Worry Later".**

Here's ClubLog's Top 10 Most wanted DXCC entities:

1. **P5 DPRK (NORTH KOREA)**
2. **BS7H SCARBOROUGH REEF**
3. **CE0X SAN FELIX ISLANDS**
4. **BV9P PRATAS ISLAND**
5. **KH7K KURE ISLAND**
6. **KH3 JOHNSTON ISLAND**
7. **3Y/P PETER 1 ISLAND**
8. **FT5/X KERGUELEN ISLAND**
9. **YV0 AVES ISLAND**
10. **3Y/B BOUVET ISLAND**

September…

5W, SAMOA. Jacek, SP5EAQ, will be active from Apia as 5W0AF starting on 21 September for 3 weeks, SSB only; 10-40m (80m possible in the last week). QSL via SP7DQR (OQRS) – bureau cards and LoTW for free. Logs online available at least once a day.

8Q, MALDIVES. Juergen, DL3JH will again be active from Thulhagiri island, North Male Atoll, Maldives as 8Q7JH during September 20 to October 10, 2026. QRV on 20-15-10m; FT8, CW & SSB. QSL via H/c, buro / direct.

9A, CROATIA. Special event station 9A10SOTA is QRV through September to celebrate 10 years of Summits on the Air in Croatia. Activity will be on various bands and modes.

9V, SINGAPORE. Reminder - Eric, KH6WI, is QRV as 9V1EO for the next two years. Activity is on Satellite QO-100 using FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

CT9, MADEIRA IS. Miguel, LX1MDA will be active holiday-style as **CT9/LX1MDA** from Madeira Island during August 31 to September 6, 2026. Activity on 40–10m, mainly 20m; SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW and bureau (LX bureau).

J48, SAMOS. Dirk, ON5CT will be active from Samos, EU-049 as **J48S** during September 11 to October 10, 2026. QRV on 80-10m; FT8, FT4, SSB, RTTY and some CW. Participation in the WW RTTY contest. Logs uploaded to Club Log, QSL via eQSL and LoTW.

JD1, OGASAWARA IS. From September 24 to October 6, 2026 look for Take JA1UII (as **JD1BON**), Koji JI1LET (as **JD1BOI**), Take **JE1NVD/JD1** and Koji **JI1CRM/JD1** will be active from Chichijima, Ogasawara Islands during September 24 to October 6, 2026. QRV on various bands & modes using a combination of antennas, including Spiderbeam, dipoles and TA33jr yagi. QSL via LoTW for each call.

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA. Yuris, YL2GM let's DX-WORLD know that he and Eugene, EA5EL will be active from Aunu`u Island, American Samoa as **KH8WW** during September 10-24, 2026. QRV on various bands and modes. Website with full information will be available after September 1st.

N4, SAPELO IS. USA. The Sapelo Island Expedition Group is pleased to announce that operators Ricky (K4JTT), Ian (NV4C), and Tim (WK4U) will activate special event station **N4N** from beautiful Sapelo Island, Georgia (IOTA NA-058) during October 8–11, 2026.

This operation commemorates the 16th anniversary of the group's first Sapelo Island activation during International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend in 2010. Amateur radio operators around the world are invited to work N4N as the team operates from one of Georgia's most unique barrier islands.

P29, PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Maxim, OH7O announces he plans to be active from Kavieng, New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea (OC-008) as P29YY starting August 29 until September 8, 2026. Grid: QI57jk.

RA1, FRANZ JOSEF LAND. Vasily RA1ZZ, Vladimir R9LR, Dima RA9USU, Alex R9LM, Nick R3CN and Eugene RW6MD are pleased to announce a DXpedition to Franz Josef Land (44th most wanted and the northernmost DXCC). We plan to be on air as **RI1FJZ** from September 9 to 25 using up to 7 radios with power amplifiers (2 x CW/SSB, 5 x Digi). EME, LEO and QO-100 also to be used.

T88, PALAU. Nobu JA0JHQ will again be active from Palau as **T88PB** during September 4-7, 2026. Participation in the All Asian DX SSB contest. QSL via H/c, LoTW. QTH: Palau Radio Club, Koror.

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Reminder - Randall, KX4QD is QRV as V73HW for the next two years. Activity is in his spare time on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

V47, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Tom, K0YA (as **V47YA**) and Toni, W5RCX (as **V47RCX**) will be active from St Kitts (QTH: V47JA) during September 9-30, 2026. QRV on 160-6m; CW, SSB & FT8; holiday-style operation. QSL both calls via LoTW.

V51, NAMIBIA. Gunter, DK2WH says he will again be active from Namibia as V51WH starting August 25 and lasting through until October 10, 2026. He operates from a farm near Omaruru and in April last year installed an Optibeam 9-5 on a 15m mast. QRV on 160-6m, including 60m. Gunter will use V55Y in the CQWW RTTY contest. QSL via DK2WH.

VK9W, Willis Island. Sandeep "Sands" has announced he will be back on Willis Island for a winter tour at the end of 2026. Updates regarding this operation will be added as information becomes available.

VK0, ANTARCTICA. Ramon, LU1DMZ, is QRV as LU1DMZ/Z from the Orcadas base on Laurie Island, IOTA AN-008, until the end of 2026.

VK0, ANTARCTICA. David, VK2JDS, is QRV as VK0DS from the Australian Davis Research Station through early September. Activity is on 40 through 6 meters using SSB and FT8, EME activity on 1296 MHz and 70 centimeters.

VP9, BERMUDA. From September 23-29, 2026, Lee N7NU, Ron WJ7R and Al K7AR will be active from Bermuda as N7NU/VP9. QRV on HF bands; CW, SSB & Digi. Participation in the CQWW DX RTTY contest as VP9I. QTH: VP9GE. QSL N7NU/VP9 via N7NU.

VP0/H, SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Rafal Mazur, SQ4O, is active as HF0PAS from the Polish Antarctic Station Arctowski on King George Island until October. He has installed directional Yagi antennas for 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters, with future goals of stringing up a wire dipole for 80 and 40 meters.

VY0, SOUTHAMPTON IS. Mike, VE2XB is expected to arrive Coral Harbour, Southampton island, NA-007 on August 23 staying for a month. QRV as **VY0ZOO** on 80-10m; CW & SSB. QSL via VE2XB.

VY0, IGLOOLIK IS. After his Southampton island (NA-007) activity, Mike VE2XB will then be active from Igloolik, NA-174 during 29 September to 26 October. QRV as **VY0ZOO** on 80-10m; CW & SSB. QSL via VE2XB. NOTE: NA-174 is quite rare with around 16% of chasers having worked the IOTA group.

Z68, KOSOVO. Giovanni, IZ2DPX will be active from Grashticë, Kosovo as **Z68PX** during September 4-11, 2026. QRV on 60-6m; SSB & FT8/4 using a vertical antenna + dipoles. QSL via H/c, buro or direct Club Log OQRS. LoTW.

Looking Ahead & Other Reminders…

6W, SENEGAL. The Italian DXpedition Team (IDT) consisting of Elvira IV3FSG, Tony I2PJA, Oscar IK2AQZ, Alfeo I1HJT, Silvano I2YSB, Franco I1FQH, Stefano IK2HKT and Angelo IK2CKR will be active as **6W/I2YSB** (CW, SSB & RTTY) and **6W/IK2HKT** (FT8) from Senegal in October / November 2026 – dates to follow. Up to five stations will be active using Elecraft K3 transcivers, 4 x HAL 1200 amplifiers, 1 x Elecraft KPA 500, 5el Yagi for 6m, 1 x 30m loop, 1 x 60m vertical, 1 x 80m vertical, 1 x 160m vertical, 2 x 40m verticals, 3 x Hexbeam for 6 bands. QSL via direct I2YSB, OQRS.

C5, THE GAMBIA. From October 1 to November 4, Lui, YT3PL will be in The Gambia and active as **C5R**. He will be joined by Luc, F5RAV (**C5C**) from October 23 to November 1, where both will QRV for the CQWW SSB contest, using a 1kw amp sponsored by Ranko, 4O3A (also **C5A**). Luc will also operate SATs and will try to be active from Bijolo AF-060 again as **C5B**.

H49, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Rolando 9A3MR (Team leader), Zrinko (Zik) DK8ZZ (co-leader), Mladen 9A2NA , Frane 9A3CJY, Kristijan 9A4WY and Livio 9A7Y will be active from Solomon Island (OC-047) using special callsign **H49A** in October '26**.**

S9R, SÃO TOMÉ. The **S9R** DXpedition will take place from October 17 to 31, 2026, from São Tomé and Príncipe, specifically from Tamarindos (grid locator JJ31rp). The operation will be active on multiple HF bands and modes, aiming to provide worldwide coverage and fair access to all regions. Team: D2ACE D2IM – EC7R – CT1BOL – CT1BZG – CT3MD.

VK9, CHRISTMAS IS. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group (PIDXG), in partnership with Youth on the Air (YOTA), is proud to announce a DXpedition to Christmas Island in November and December 2026 that will be planned, led, and operated by the next generation of DXers. The team will arrive on Christmas Island on November 16 and be on the air through December 4, 2026 — approximately 18 days of operation. The station plan calls for four local stations, two remote NexGenRiB2 stations operating over Starlink, and a portable QO-100 satellite station. Activity will be on 160–6 meters, plus satellite including QO-100. The team will participate in the CQWW CW Contest.

VP2V, BRITISH VIRGIN IS. A British Virgin Islands DXpedition is planned during October 19–27! Operators will be Brayden KC1KUG, Michael W3MLJ, and Violetta KN2P. They will be active during the CQWW DX SSB Contest under the callsign VP2VXX, and outside of the contest as VP2V/followed by their home calls. They also are planning to be active on 6–160m. Looking forward to putting VP2V in a lot of logs!

XT, BURKINA FASO. From early January '27, **XT2MAX** will again be on air using an IC-7300, vertical and OCF dipole antennas. Power: 100w; modes: CW, SSB, FT8 (MSHV). QSL via DK1MAX. LoTW uploaded daily free of charge. This won't be a 24/7 activity, says Max. Check QRZ page for further updates.

XR0, ALEXANDER SELKIRK IS. Moisés CE3VTZ & Felipe XQ7IR will be QRV from Alexander Selkirk Island, IOTA SA-101 as **XR0Z** for approximately 10 days during October 2026. Operation will be from 160 to 10m; FT8, CW & SSB modes.

Disclaimer: As you know, these DX events can change due to various reasons that sometimes are out of the control of those who are doing the planning. Be patient. I'm hoping that you use this info to hunt down your ATNO or simply to work some DX before your rigs become boat anchors or you become a boat anchor yourself!

LET'S KEEP WOBBLING THE ETHERS!! Keep the airways going by working some great DX. Get on the air!!
73 for now….*Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner*

Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET
Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

Hi everyone,

The next Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG meeting will be held on Tuesday 9/1/26 @7:00pm in PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna.

Cya in Ravenna!

73 de W8NET Gene

Charlie the Tuner's September 2026 Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"

Greetings to My Fellow PCARS Contesters and anyone else interested in Contesting:

K8BF Scheduled Contests for 2026

Minnesota and British Columbia QSOPs	**Feb 7-8**	**Completed**
Freeze Your Acorns Off	**Feb 21**	**Completed**
Idaho and Wisconsin QSOPs	**Mar 14-15**	**Completed**
Florida QSOP	**Apr 25-26**	**Completed**
7th Call Area QSOP	**May 2-3**	**CANCELLED**
Indiana QSOP	**May 2-3**	**CANCELLED**
Delaware QSOP	**May 2-3**	**CANCELLED**
New England QSOP	**May 2-3**	**CANCELLED**
ARRL International Digital Contest	**June 6-7**	**Completed**
Field Day	**June 27-28**	**Completed**
NA QSOP RTTY	**July 18-19**	**Completed**
Roast Your Acorns Off	**July 25**	**Completed**
Ohio QSOP & BBQ	**Aug 22-23**	**Completed**
OSPOTA	**Sep 12**	
Washington Salmon Run	**Sep 19-20**	
California QSOP	**Oct 3-4**	
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB	**Oct 24-25**	**Added**

Other September Contests/Events that may be of interest to PCARS Members:

Colorado QSO Party	Sept 5-6
Tennessee QSO Party	Sept 6-7
ARRL Sept VHF Contest	Sept 12-14
Iowa QSO Party	Sept 19-20
Texas QSO Party	Sept 19-20
New Jersey QSO Party	Sept 19-20
Wisconsin QSO Party	Sept 19
New Hampshire QSO Party	Sept 19-20
Maine QSO Party	Sept 26-27
CQ WW DX Contest RTTY	Sept 26-27

73 for now and hope to hear you on the bands in 2026. Charlie the Tuner.

Note: Other contests decided upon by the contest committee might be run from Members' QTHs using the club call with our License Trustee's prior permission. Of course, they will also have to adhere to their specific station license requirements.

PCARS
PORTAGE COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE
ESTABLISHED IN 2005
PORTAGE COUNTY
PCARS
AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE
PCARS
73!
VFO 146.520 FM
VFO RPT
VE TESTING
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVEN NUMBERED MONTHS
AT THE PCARS CLUB SITE
IN RAVENNA, OHIO
VE TESTING PER
LAUREL VEC
LAUREL
VEC
VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COORDINATOR
COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS September 2026 Schedule of Events	
September 7th	Labor Day
September 8th	PCARS Board Meeting
September 14th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
September 12th	Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest
September 19th	Washington Salmon Run

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site	
1st Tuesday Odd Months	Digital Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
1st Tuesday Even Months	Linux & Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
2nd Tuesday	Portable Ops Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
3rd Tuesday	Antenna Special Interest Group - Moderator: Ken, WA8LRW
4th Tuesday	DX & Contest Special Interest Group - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT
5th Tuesday	Could Be Anything Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, KD8WCK

Hamfest Calendar

September 5 - Athens Trunkfest
Athens, OH — Athens Masonic Lodge. Sponsored by Athens County Amateur Radio Association.

September 13 - Findlay Hamfest
Findlay, OH — Hancock County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Findlay Radio Club.

September 27 - Cleveland Hamfest
Berea, OH — Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Hamfest Association of Cleveland.

October 10 - Williams County ARA Hamfest
Montpelier, OH — Williams County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by WCARA.

October 11 - Ashland Trunkfest
Ashland, OH — Ashland County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Ashland Area Amateur Radio Club.

August Meeting Pictures

Be Part of Our Team!

If you're an amateur radio enthusiast who enjoys helping fellow operators succeed, here's a great opportunity to join DX Engineering's customer support team—"Powered by Active Hams!"

Amateur Radio Retail Store Technical Sales Representative

- Assist customers with their purchases in the DX Engineering Showroom
- Comprehensive benefits package
- Full-time position
- Showroom Hours: Mon.-Sat., 9 am - 5 pm
- Amateur radio license is required

For full details and to apply online, scan here:

DX® ENGINEERING

PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted!

Dig out that amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it to be permanently affixed to the wall in the PCARS club station!

We have over 80 PCARS member's ham plates now, **but we can use more**. Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. Have a copy of your current FCC license when you apply. The official form to obtain your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS IO Group site. Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a ***permanent*** **part of PCARS history**.

From the Ohio BMV:

General Information: Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of Ohio and hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission may apply for these plates. The official call letters will be the license plate numbers.

Registrant Eligibility: Owner must submit a copy of the un-revoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. (FCC).

Title Requirements: Ohio Certificate of Title issued in the same name as the FCC license, either singly or jointly, or the name on the FCC license is the same name on the lease agreement.

Vehicle Information: These plates may be issued to passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, recreational vehicles, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers.

Type of Plates: Plates will be manufactured with the FCC license.

Issuance Information: Amateur Radio plates cannot be issued with system assigned, reserved, or personalized plate formats.

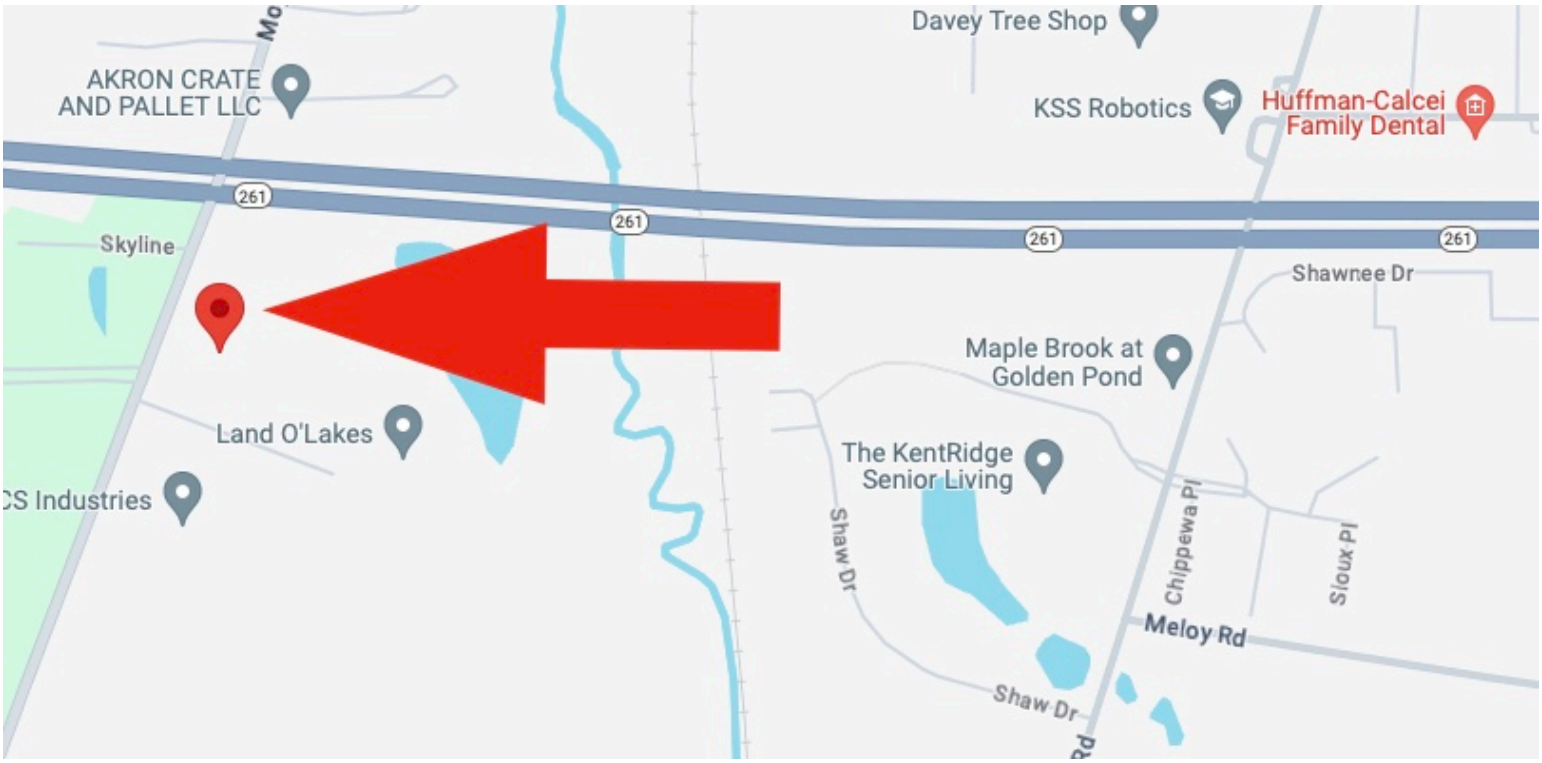
Renewal of plates can be done at your local Deputy Registrar or by mail using their renewal notice. Amateur Radio License Holders must provide a copy of their current unexpired and unrevoked official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at the time of *any type renewal transaction*.

All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at all Deputy Registrar license agency locations. These plates cost an additional $10.00 annually plus the normal registration fees. The fee is determined by Ohio Revised Code section 4503.14.

PCARS Meetings

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) in-person meetings are held the **2nd Monday** of each month and start at **7:00 PM**.

The meetings are held at The American Legion, Post 496
1945 Mogadore Road in Kent (Just South of Route 261)



The American Legion Post 496 is located on the southeast corner of State Route 261 and Mogadore Rd. The driveway is on the south side of the building and as you enter you will pass through a parking lot on the south side of the building. Please do not park in this lot but instead continue on to the parking lot on the east side of the building which is the near the rear entrance into the Post 'Canteen'. As you enter the post from this entrance you'll see a bar to the left and a dining area to the right. The meeting area we'll be in is on the right, to the rear of the dining area.

The menu consists of your basic burger / dog / chicken sandwiches, wings, fries, onion rings, and salads. There is also an appetizer selection as well. Adult beverages are available and costs are in line with what you would expect at most bar-restaurant facilities.

If you are a member of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion, bring your ID card as you get a substantial discount on adult beverage pricing.

PCARS VE Testing Information & News

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS VE Team Liaison

Future Dates:
- October 3rd
- December 5th

Check the website for the latest information

On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to seeing you at the PCARS club site in Ravenna so you can take your license test or an upgrade to your existing license. All tests will be given using Exam Tools. This new process will provide instant grading and tells examinees whether they passed of failed immediately after finishing the exam. Most will receive their calls and upgrade within three business days of passing the test. However, it does change what is needed for testing.

1. Examinees must go to https://hamstudy.org/. On the right side of the page, click "Find a Session". Select one of our PCARS sessions and follow the instructions to register for the test. Examinees must have a valid and working email address for this process. If you pass and the FCC requires a fee, you will receive an email with instructions for payment. This email will only be sent ONCE. It is important that you watch for it. Try to avoid company or educational email addresses. Emails are often filtered and you might miss your FCC notice. If you don't have an FRN number the registration system will, through the FCC, get you one.
2. You will show up at the club site at 9:45 am on the test date and start the process to take the test. You must have a valid photo ID and a copy of your current license if you are upgrading. See "All the Details" below for complete information.
3. The test is taken on one of the club computers. It is a easy and quick process. Remember there is no time limit for any of the tests. The system also allows you to change your answers if necessary while taking the test.
4. When finished, the system will grade the exam and let you know if you passed or failed. It will automatically transfer all the information necessary for your license directly to the VEC for processing.
5. There will be no fee charged for testing.
6. If you fail your exam the system will provide information on the questions you missed, so you can prepare for your next attempt.
7. When the FCC processes your exam you will receive and email with payment instructions for paying the $35 FCC fee. This fee will not be charged for upgrades.

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for **9:45 am** Registration, **10:00 am** Testing starts, on the first Saturday of every even numbered month at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

Any questions? Contact VEC@portcars.org

Okay - Now ***All*** the Details:

- If you are sick, have a cough, a high temperature or have been exposed to COVID-19 or other communicable germs, or someone that has been infected - please, *do not* come to the club site. *Use of masks is optional*.
- No food or snacks allowed.
- Ensure you have the following:
- A picture ID such as a valid Driver's License, State ID, School ID, or US Passport.
- If you are under 16 years of age, a parent or guardian must be able to vouch for you and you need a copy of your birth certificate (you do not have to give us a copy, we just have to see and verify).
- If you are upgrading to General or Extra - You MUST bring your original valid amateur radio license.
- Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
- NO cell Phones allowed.

Email Addresses REQUIRED - All applications are required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents via regular mail.

FCC - $35 Amateur Application Fee - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new $35 application fee will **not apply** to **upgrade to an amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees**. The new fees will apply only to applications for a **new** license, **renewal**, rule waiver, or a **new vanity call sign**.

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the $35 fee at exam sessions.

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate. The candidate will have **10 calendar days,** from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. The link will be good for 30 days.

Youth Licensing Grant Program - The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time $35 application fee for **new** amateur radio license candidates **17 years old or younger** for tests administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. The $35 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates 17 years old or younger would pay a reduced exam session fee of $5 to the ARRL VE team at the time of the exam. The $5 fee is for all candidates 17 years old or younger, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required.

Visit the ARRL website for the program instructions and reimbursement form at www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program.

Printing Your FCC License

Information provided by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial "reference copy" — from the ULS License Manager.

I've created a set of instructions on how you can request an **"official" printed copy of your license*** Click here to download the instructions

Thanks & 73

J.C., KC8JC
PCARS Newsletter Editor

Yeah, I'm going to mention the award again! It's very exciting for me to be able to say that The Radiogram is the First Prize Newsletter this year. Again, I am so very pleased that the PCARS crew comes together every month to contribute to the newsletter. It makes it a joy to edit.

Now that we're heading into September, you know that it's Ohio State Parks On The Air time! For POTA-heads like me, it's the best contest of the year. I hope to hear as many of you as I can on the air.

Thank you to all of those who sent inputs for this month's issue:

KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, KD8OBA, KD8WCK, W8NET, W8PT, WA8LRW, WB8LCD, WG8X and the World Wide Web.

Send all of your inputs to me at KC8JC@portcars.org in the form of plain text and full-size photos. Join in the fun of contributing to your club's Award Winning Newsletter!

Getting outside while I still have the weather for it.

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Ohio

~ The Hamvention® 2018 Club of the Year ~

PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the Kent American Legion Post 496.
1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - Enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.
Meeting starts at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend - Stop in and say hello!
PCARS uses the K8IV repeater: 146.895 PL 118.8 in Sugar Bush Knolls. - EchoLink Node: K8BF-L
Check PCARS out on the web: www.PORTCARS.org

2026 PCARS Officers

President - Greg Ash - KA8TOA
Vice President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Treasurer - Paul Highland - KE8EGF
1 Year Trustee - Gene Marsh - W8NET
2 Year Trustee - Tom Parkinson -KB8UUZ
3 Year Trustee - Bob Hajdak -N8QE
Past President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005

ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006

Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

2026 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards DXCC	-	-
Club Site Management	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Field Day Chairman	WA8AR	Tony Romito
FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
K8BF QSL Manager	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
Membership Chairman	-	-
Net Control Coordinator	N8SKN	Bob Rohde
Newsletter Editor	KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PCARS Photographer	-	-
Public Information Officer	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
Secretary	-	-
Social Media	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
Tech, Gen, & Extra Class Mgr.	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Volunteer Examiner Liaison	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Webmaster	WG8X	John Myers
POTA Coordinator	W8NET	Gene Marsh

Active PCARS Volunteer Examiner Team Members

KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
AC8QG	Nick Wagner
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
KA8TOA	Greg Ash
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
N8FUM	Dan Torchia
KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
W8EC	Mark Haas
K8IG	Fred Freer
W8HFZ	Tim McLeod
K8PJW	Phil Weiss
N8XTH	Deron Boring
K8IV	Ed Polack
N8AMY	Amy Leggiero
KP4VZ	Mike Gonzalez

THE RADIOGRAM

The RADIOGRAM copyright ©2026, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Fourth Place 2024 - Third Place 2015, 2022 - Second Place 2014, 2016, 2020 - First Place 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023. ARRL Great Lakes Division Newsletter - Second Place 2013 - First Place in the 2017, 2020 and 2021.

Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of PCARS. Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify what you use. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is that you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. Caution - some of the articles in this newsletter maybe covered by copyright - please do not copy and use the ones that have by-line information unless you obtain permission from the original author. If you're not sure, drop an e-mail to KC8JC@portcars.org. The RADIOGRAM always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually). ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. Why the Black Squirrel in our logo? For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Legend has it that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and they migrated and thrived throughout our county. Look into the black squirrel legends and see what you find! When you spot a black squirrel – think PCARS!

The RADIOGRAM is published every month and only sent to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that, we can take you off the e-mail list. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: KC8JC@portcars.org

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